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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

1962



R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, *Medical Officer of Health*

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, *Chief Public Health Inspector*



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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

\*THE MAYOR (Councillor PHILIP SMITH, J.P.), *ex officio.*

\**Chairman:* Councillor H. BRINDLE, J.P.

\**Vice-Chairman:* Alderman J. A. DEAN.

*Members:*

Alderman J. BROOKS, C.C.  
 Alderman W. WELSBY  
 Councillor A. J. BOOTH  
 Councillor C. B. CALLAGHAN  
 Councillor S. DAWSON  
 \*Councillor J. HARDY (Miss)  
 \*Councillor J. HIGGINS  
 \*Councillor J. G. SEDDON  
 Councillor S. STOUT  
 \*Councillor J. WILD

\**Members of Sub-Committee.*

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## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health:*

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector:*

W. J. WOLSTENHOLME, R.S.I., & S.I.E. JT. BOARD,  
 R.S.I. FOOD INSPECTION.

*Public Health Inspectors:*

P. BIRCH, R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.H. FOOD INSPECTION.  
 F. C. EVANS, CERT. P.H.I.E.B., R.S.H. FOOD INSPECTION.  
 (Resigned 31/8/62).  
 C. L. GARSIDE, CERT. P.H.I.E.B. (Appointed 19/11/62).

*Pupil Public Health Inspector:*

C. L. GARSIDE (Appointed Public Health Inspector 19/11/62).

*Clerks:*

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR.  
 Miss C. WILKINSON (Resigned July, 1962).  
 Miss C. L. BAXENDALE (Appointed August, 1962).

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Health Department during 1962.

#### STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area .....	1,504	statute acres.
Population .....	27,290	Estimated mid-1962.
	27,474	Census 1961
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 .....	7,104	
Number of inhabited houses, 1962 .....	9,386	
Rateable Value (1st April, 1962) .....	£287,662	
Sum represented by 1d. rate .....	£1,114	

TABLE I

#### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1962

BIRTHS		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	260	257	517
Illegitimate	...	15	12	27
	Total	275	269	544
STILL BIRTHS		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	7	4	11
Illegitimate	...	1	1	2
	Total	8	5	13
		Farnworth	England & Wales	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population		19.7	18.0	
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000				
total births	...	23.3	18.1	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	6	8	14
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
	Total	7	8	15
INFANT MORTALITY RATE		Farnworth	England & Wales	
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births)		27.6	21.4	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	...	15		
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 total births	...	Nil	0.35	
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	16.2	11.9	

There is little change in the death rate from the previous year but there has been a noticeable increase in the Birth Rate from 16.2 to 19.7. The national Birth Rate was 17.4 in 1961 and 18.0 this year.

There is a marked decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate from 47.1 to 27.6.

The main causes of death for the last ten years are here tabulated.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Bronchitis .....	24	29	31	18	25	34	26	19	35	39
Pneumonia .....	11	6	13	13	10	22	33	12	19	34
Heart Disease .....	99 (44)	93 (43)	80 (41)	91 (48)	121 (64)	134 (55)	98 (53)	109 (59)	127 (76)	127 (85)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	42	45	48	52	46	57	61	65	72	82
Cancer .....	56 (7)	53 (8)	48 (12)	51 (9)	56 (15)	66 (11)	63 (18)	57 (14)	80 (17)	52 (9)

The figures in brackets denote the deaths due to coronary disease and those due to lung cancer.

Lung infections due to Bronchitis or Pneumonia accounted for 73 deaths, many more than in any year during the decade. More than one third of these occurred in January, following the hard winter of December 1961 and early January of the year.

Lung cancer this year shows a decline and, if sensible propaganda is directed towards the teenager, may in thirty or forty years time become a rare condition.

Coronary thrombosis as a fatal illness has increased. Much has been said in previous reports of this condition, the root cause of which is still obscure, but correct treatment at the first symptom of chest pain can safeguard against further attacks.

TABLE II  
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1962

			Males	Females
Tuberculosis—respiratory	...	...	5	—
Meningococcal infection	...	...	—	1
Malignant neoplasm—stomach	...	...	3	3
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus	...	...	9	—
Malignant neoplasm—breast	...	...	—	6
Malignant neoplasm—uterus	...	...	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	15	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	1
Diabetes	...	...	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	36	46
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	51	34
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	7
Other heart disease	...	...	16	26
Other circulatory disease	...	...	16	22
Influenza	...	...	4	7
Pneumonia	...	...	16	18
Bronchitis	...	...	24	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	4	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	3	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	17	17
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	1
All other accidents	...	...	5	9
Suicide	...	...	3	1
			Total	237
				233

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

How pleasing it is to note the absence of any case of poliomyelitis and only one case of whooping cough. Providing immunisation proceeds as in the last few years, these diseases should no longer be a menace to child health.

**TABLE III**  
**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,**  
**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1962

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods—Years								
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over
Scarlet fever ... ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	1	—
Whooping cough ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles(excluding rubella)	38	3	4	4	5	8	13	1	—	—
Diphtheria ... ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery... ... ...	39	2	1	2	4	4	14	2	2	8
Meningococcal infection...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		0-	5-	15-	45-	65 & over				
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	26	4	5	1	5	11				
Smallpox ... ... ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Acute encephalitis ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Enteric or typhoid fever...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Paratyphoid fevers ...	1	—	—	—	1	—				
Erysipelas... ... ...	1	—	—	—	—	1				
Food poisoning ... ...	4	3	—	—	1	—				
Tuberculosis-Respiratory	9	—	—	—	3	3	3			
Meninges & C.N.S.	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Other ... ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				
Puerperal pyrexia ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—				

## OLD PEOPLE

The Old People's Welfare Committee has extended the meals-on-wheels service and continues to supervise the well-being of the town's old folk. There is still a need, a great need, for volunteers to visit these old people once a week. There is still a need, a great need, for more accommodation for the very infirm and the sick.

The monthly deaths among people over 65 are shown below.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
48	22	21	19	18	16
July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
11	15	9	17	23	12

In January, 28 of the deaths were due to Bronchitis or Pneumonia.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Little more can be said of the young people than has already been said in the previous year's report. Vandalism is still a cause of great concern.

Parents, church and school have less influence over the conduct of the young, and life outside the home, apart from the mute attendance to the television, is more attractive than life within the family circle.

Every generation thinks that its sons are profligate. Perhaps such an attitude is part of a general human tendency to think better of the past than of the present, yet it is certain that the generations since 1945 have been better fed, better housed, better educated, better cared for than any of their predecessors, and in this time there has been an increase in the amount of reported vandalism. These destructive acts probably occur when healthy young people are without the amenities that would enable them to lose their surplus energy in harmless and instructive ways.

Perhaps more youth clubs, open to all denominations, and an increase in the number of playing fields would be the answer. The young people themselves should run the clubs with the minimum amount of adult supervision and local authorities should make substantial grants available for their establishment and upkeep.

## HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :

			Houses	Flats
(i)	By the local authority ...	...	22	Nil
(ii)	By other local authorities ...	...	Nil	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons ...	...	57	Nil

TABLE IV

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1—(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	433
(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ...	...	...	1338
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ...	...	...	192
2—	Total number of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit...	...	...	435

2. HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons Families	
		during year	
In Clearance Areas :			
1—Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
2—Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
3—Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

Not in Clearance Areas :	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons Families	
		during year	
4—As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ...	15	13	4

5—Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ...	40	104	39
6—Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
7—Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

			<i>Displaced during year</i>	
			<i>Number Persons Families</i>	
3.	UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—			
1—Under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
2—Under Section 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
3—Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	...	Nil	Nil	Nil

4. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—

		<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By local authority</i>
1—After informal action by local authority	181		—
2—After formal notice under—			
(a) Public Health Acts	...	Nil	Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		Nil
3—Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	Nil	—

5. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING ACT, 1957) :—

		<i>No. of separate dwellings contained in col. (1)</i>	<i>No. of houses in col. (1)</i>
Position at end of year :			
1—Retained for temporary accommodation :			
(a) Under Section 48	...	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	..	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	...	Nil	Nil
2—Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	...	...	Nil

6. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—

		<i>No. of houses in col. (1)</i>	<i>No. of occupants in col. (2)</i>
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders, or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	...	3	8

7. HOUSING ACT, 1949, & HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC. :—

Action during the year :—

	No. of schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	... ... ...	10 10
(b) Approved by local authority	... ...	10 10
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	... ... ...	Nil Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	... ...	Nil Nil
(e) Work completed	... ... ...	10 10

8. HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959—STANDARD GRANTS :—

Action during the year :—

	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
(a) Applications approved by local authority	... ... ... 38
(b) Work completed	... ... ... 38

About a third of the Borough's houses are more than 70 years old; many are approaching or have passed the century. They were not built to last so long and are now wearing out. Modern housing standards require every new house to have its bath, hot water system and indoor toilet, but few of these old houses have such simple amenities. They have none of the inherent defects of back-to-back houses, nor do they lack the adequate air space, proper water supply, separate lavatory, and suitable drainage arrangements which are essential to a fit house. But this does not make them good houses. Many are in poor repair, dampness is widespread, and structural defects are common. If real housing progress is to be made in the town thoughts will have to turn towards complete renewal of these areas of sub-standard property, because in most cases the possibility of worthwhile improvement is ruled out by limitations of space and structural decay.

The older houses which are reasonably sound and suitable for improvement will remain in use for some years. Every effort should be made to get these houses provided with modern amenities. To this end, owner-occupiers are taking up Improvement Grants, but it is evident that compulsion in some form or another will be needed if landlord-controlled houses are to be improved in substantial numbers.

TABLE V

BUILDING	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
<b>By Local Authority</b>															
Houses	98	55	122	38	75	64	156	102	39	98	34	—	—	24	106
Pre-Fabs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flats	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	45	—	—	—	—
<b>By Private Builders ...</b>															
Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	1	2	2	10	4	1	6
Houses Demolished	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	4	71	3	75
Closing Orders	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	5	—	—	1	1

It is disappointing to record that in the year under review none of the houses in the Slum-Clearance Programme were pulled down. This is not to say that no progress was made; the Council's clearance proposals for the Crompton Street Area were finally confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in February, and re-housing proceeded as suitable accommodation became available. By the end of the year most of the houses were standing empty awaiting demolition and plans for rebuilding on the site were being made.

Fifty-five houses were demolished in 1962. They included the last of the war-time prefabricated dwellings, nine houses demolished by private owners for redevelopment purposes, and seven individual unfit houses taken down in compliance with Demolition Orders.

Essential repairs were done to 181 privately-owned houses during the year after informal action had been taken by the Department.

Housing progress during 1962 is shown in Table IV and Table V shows the number of houses built and demolished during the last fifteen years.

#### CARAVANS

Unauthorised caravan parking again proved troublesome during the year. A survey carried out at the beginning of the year showed that 54 occupied caravans were stationed in various parts of the Borough, and in a later survey 43 caravans were found on seven sites accommodating a total of 116 people.

The Council gave authority for caravans to be removed from Council-owned land when the owners failed to go voluntarily; this step had to be taken on one occasion, but a warning was sufficient in subsequent cases. Unfortunately, positive action of this kind cannot be taken where caravans park on private land; here the onus to remove them is on the landowner.

Until proper caravan sites are provided these difficulties will recur. It is hoped that consultations which are to take place between the various Local Authorities will result in progress towards the establishment of a proper site in a suitable location.

## CLEAN AIR

Smoke from industrial chimneys has been reduced substantially over the years, and it is now frequently possible to view the town from the higher ground on the east and see little or no smoke from the 22 industrial chimneys in use. Many of these chimneys serve boiler furnaces which have been modernised and can therefore be regarded, for practical purposes, as smokeless. Some factories, however, are still operating old boiler plants and these produce smoke from time to time. Smoke, of course, is not the only air pollutant, and at least one industrial chimney is often guilty of excessive fume emission.

A survey of all industrial boiler plants was made during the year. It revealed many changes in the pattern of industrial fuel usage since the Clean Air Act of 1956: the number of industrial boilers in use has fallen by half, and of these one third have changed from coal to smokeless fuel or oil; the total consumption of solid fuel used on boiler furnaces has gone down by half; and the amount of coal now used on industrial boilers, most of which have been converted to operate smokelessly, is only half the estimated amount used in domestic grates.

In the domestic sector, a good part of the year was taken up by a detailed survey of houses in the first proposed Smoke Control Area at Plodder Lane (South). Surveys of this kind take time, but it is time well spent because it allows the householders concerned to express their attitude to clean air, to ventilate their grievances, and to make their objections known. If these can be taken account of, Smoke Control Areas are more likely to be successful when they ultimately come into operation.

It is unfortunate that consistent quality and adequate supplies of smokeless fuels cannot always be taken for granted, and that not everyone finds the cost of smokeless fuel acceptable. These difficulties will have to be overcome before domestic smoke control is regarded universally as a benefit to be sought after rather than an imposition to be resisted.

Measurements of air pollution have again been made throughout the year. They continue to confirm Farnworth's inclusion in the list of "Black Areas." Indeed, on the basis of the number of days in 1961 when pollution exceeded a certain limit, Farnworth was one of the nine "blackest" towns out of almost 300 in which measurements were taken in that year.

In common with other industrial areas, the town was enveloped in thick fog for several days in early December. Pollution measurements during that period were four or five times higher than the annual average.

Thanks are again due to the staff and students of Farnworth Grammar School for their assistance in the work of recording air pollution.

Tables VI and VII show the average daily amounts of smoke and sulphur in the atmosphere recorded in two different parts of the town each month during 1960, 1961 and 1962.

TABLE VI

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SMOKE**

**Measurements recorded by volumetric instruments at Avondale Road and Farnworth Grammar School**

Expressed as daily averages for each month in microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

	1960		1961		1962	
	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School
January ...	520	566	504	480	324	472
February ...	410	453	341	340	500	512
March ...	270	270	320	350	620	444
April ...	238	263	258	265	300	296
May ...	220	190	188	186	188	108
June ...	60	100	124	108	140	136
July ...	102	118	102	99	200	132
August ...	166	170	117	114	116	188
September ...	261	237	179	188	220	272
October ...	420	389	252	253	384	408
November ...	392	450	484	—	528	604
December ...	616	670	820	848	560	636
Averages for year ...	306	323	307	294	340	351

TABLE VII

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BY SULPHUR**

**Measurements recorded by volumetric instruments at Avondale Road and Farnworth Grammar School**

Expressed as daily averages for each month in microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

	1960		1961		1962	
	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School	Avondale Road	Grammar School
January ...	331	460	390	365	563	541
February ...	322	373	231	286	443	293
March ...	236	318	243	294	626	471
April ...	197	254	234	225	260	284
May ...	223	200	194	175	240	165
June ...	117	160	134	128	211	234
July ...	92	111	108	92	253	158
August ...	130	123	132	125	190	190
September ...	166	180	180	124	264	267
October ...	304	310	230	200	394	376
November ...	318	348	525	—	506	647
December ...	480	474	1063	1113	684	758
Averages for year ...	244	276	305	293	386	365

## CLEAN FOOD

Several incidents which occurred during the year emphasise the need for constant and unremitting care in the manufacture, storage and handling of food. Standards of hygiene are improving slowly, but the careless worker and the slack employer are still to be found. Pre-packed foods help to reduce the risk of contamination, but unless careful stock-control is practised there is a possibility of them reaching the consumer in a stale or unsound condition.

It is hard to understand how a firm which no doubt regards itself as enlightened and progressive is willing to spend a lot of money in providing up-to-date food shops where goods can be attractively presented to the customer yet at the same time allows its food storage and handling arrangements behind the shops to be unhygienic and even primitive. This irrational attitude was evident during investigations into a complaint about the condition of food sold in a local store. The standard of hygiene in the warehouse where food had been kept before being put on sale was found to be very poor.

Complaints are received from time to time about bread and confectionery, usually after the discovery of extraneous material. In these days of mass-production and automation in the food-manufacturing industry there is always a danger of workers becoming machine attendants rather than food handlers, and regarding their output as units of production rather than food to be protected against contamination and carefully handled.

Frozen fish was found to have been kept too long in a badly-maintained refrigerator. In its frozen state the fish appeared to be sound, but on cooking it was unfit to eat. Efficient refrigeration and strict stock-control are needed if frozen foods, which can be such a boon to housewives and shopkeepers, are to be free from risk.

The survey of public houses which was reported upon last year was followed in 1962 by a similar investigation into conditions in licensed clubs. Where defects or unsatisfactory arrangements were found they were brought to the notice of those responsible.

No firm plans have yet been announced for comprehensive improvement of the Public Market. Too often conditions on food stalls are found unsatisfactory, but to some extent this is beyond the traders' control. Proper standards of food cleanliness cannot be expected in the absence of essential facilities like hot water, wash-basins, sinks and drainage.

A minor outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the summer, when several people became ill after a wedding reception meal. Despite extensive investigation no definite cause was found, but the inquiries led to certain improvements in the methods employed by the catering firm concerned.

The number of food premises in various categories is shown in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE END  
OF 1962

TYPE OF BUSINESS	NO.
General grocers and provision dealers ... ...	144
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.) ... ... ... ...	31
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.) ... ... ... ...	5
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.) ... ... ...	38
Bakers and/or confectioners ... ... ...	45
Fried fish shops ... ... ... ...	26
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. ... ... ... ...	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments ... ... ... ...	95

### UNSTABLE FOOD

No unstable food had to be seized. The following foodstuffs were surrendered to Public Health Inspectors and destroyed after being examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Tinned foods .....	1054 lbs.
Other foods .....	593 lbs.

### MILK

The issue of licences to produce or sell milk is a County Council responsibility, but the Borough Council retains the duty to keep a register of all milk distributors in the district. At the end of the year there were 162 distributors on the register.

Milk samples for bacteriological and chemical examination are taken from farms and dairies by officers of the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture.

No serious problems arose in connection with milk during the year.

### ICE CREAM AND PRESERVED FOOD

Under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, premises used for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream, or for the preparation or manufacture of certain other foods, must be registered with the local authority. These registers were reviewed during the year and amended accordingly. The numbers on the registers at the end of the year were as follows:—

Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	2
Ice Cream Dealers .....	124
Manufacturers of Preserved Foods	29

During the year 154 visits were made to these premises.

### ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Food and Drugs Authority for the district is the Lancashire County Council, and samples of food and drugs are taken by officers of the County Health Department in collaboration with the local authority. Particulars of samples taken during the year are given in Table IX.

TABLE IX  
ADULTERATION OF FOOD  
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1962 :—

Milk .....	116
Other articles .....	53

The 53 other articles comprised :—

1 Flour confectionery	1 Demarara sugar
2 Self raising flour	1 Oatmeal
2 Tincture of iodine B.P.	1 Vitamin C tablets
1 Sweets	1 Glycerine B.P.
1 Compound syrup of hypophosphites	1 Sugar
1 Baking powder	1 Headache powder
1 Arrowroot B.P.C.	1 Gelatine
2 Chocolates	4 Ice-cream
1 Orange drink	1 Double cream
2 Sago	1 Cream-sterilised
2 Margarine	1 Fine coconut
1 Fresh fruit	1 Beef sausages
2 Ice lollies	1 Soup, canned
1 Mixed pickles	2 Wine
1 Christmas pudding	1 Meat and vegetables, canned
1 Table jelly	1 Pickled beetroot
2 Plain flour	1 Shredded beef suet
2 Cheese	1 Flavouring essence
1 Sugar free beverage	1 Powdered gelatine
1 Aspirin tablets	1 Jar of chicken fillets
1 Bread	

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst and were reported to be genuine with the exception of those listed below.

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated 1% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 Formal milk	Freezing point indicated 2.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 Sweets	Contained 27 parts per million copper whereas the recommended limit is 20 parts per million.	Manufacturers communicated with.
1 Chocolate	Contained a dead pupa and a moth, together with webbing and excreta.	Stock withdrawn from sale. Complainant and local authority for supplier's area informed.
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated 0.3% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 Formal milk	Freezing point indicated 2.3% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.

1 Orange drink	A film of fungus, which also contained atmospheric dust, a very small fly and algae, adhered to and covered most of the inside base of the bottle.	Dairy cautioned.
1 Fine coconut	Contained 64 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide). Coconut not listed in the First Schedule to the Preservatives Regulations as a food which may contain preservative.	Vendor communicated with.
1 Jar of chicken fillets	Chicken content only 81%, therefore should be labelled "Chicken Fillets in Jelly".	Importers communicated with.
1 Bread	Contained 16 mgms. black carbonaceous matter and magnetic oxide or iron. No oil present. Probably derived from oven tray.	Complainant and baker informed.

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### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

The licence in respect of the only private slaughterhouse still operating in the Borough was not renewed at the beginning of the year because certain constructional work required by the Slaughterhouse Regulations had not been completed. The necessary improvements were made later, however, the licence was renewed, and slaughtering began again at the end of January and has continued throughout the year. The premises are not ideally situated, being close to surrounding houses.

No serious difficulties were encountered during the year, although a number of minor infringements of the Slaughterhouse Regulations were brought to the notice of the slaughterhouse occupier.

The animals slaughtered were of the usual good quality and little evidence of disease was discovered. No tuberculosis was found.

The number of cattle slaughtered increases year by year. It has more than doubled in the last five years.

Eight persons had their licences to slaughter animals renewed during the year.

Details of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease are shown in Table X.

TABLE X  
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Carcases inspected and incidence of Diseases

	Cattle excluding Cows		Sheep and Lambs			Pigs
	Cows	Calves				
Number killed	391	21	Nil	922	Nil	
Number inspected	391	21	Nil	922	Nil	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	50	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	·76%	Nil	Nil	5.4%	Nil	
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

#### HAWKERS

There were four names on the register of Hawkers at the end of 1962, one new registration being made during the year.

## WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water which is supplied by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The supply was from Ferns Pressure Filters, Sweetloves Rapid Gravity Filters and the Lake District Undertaking. Eight samples of both raw and filtered water taken from Ferns Pressure Filters and Sweetloves Rapid Gravity Filters were subjected to full chemical analysis, and 98 samples of raw and 101 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. In addition, 51 samples of water from the supply of the Lake District Undertaking were examined. The results showed that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B.Coli being absent in 98.03 per cent. of the potable water samples tested. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

During the year an additional 162 yards of 2in., 311 yards of 3in., and 3 yards of 4in. diameter water main were laid within the area.

## SEWERAGE

Virtually all buildings in the town are connected to the sewerage system. Some sewers are old and defective, others are overloaded, and some parts of the system have been affected by subsidence. An extensive programme is under consideration for the reconstruction of all brick sewers in the Borough.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost every house in the town has its own water closet. At the end of the year the numbers of each type of sanitary accommodation were as follows:—

Pail closets .....	3
Waste water closets .....	14
Fresh water closets .. (estimated)	10,560

The pail closets are at farms, where connection to the sewer is for one reason or another impracticable. At two of the houses where there are waste water closets there are also fresh water closets. The early abolition or conversion of the 14 waste water closets, which are insanitary and out-of-date, is needed; it is hoped that substantial progress in this direction can be reported next year.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The unsatisfactory condition of the town's public conveniences has been mentioned before and continues to give concern.

It is accepted that much wilful damage is caused by irresponsible and apparently elusive vandals, but this hardly provides a satisfactory answer to those visitors to the town who, after passing through and calling at one or other of the conveniences, send in letters of complaint.

A town of Farnworth's size ought to be able to provide at least one central convenience with simple amenities like wash-basins, hot water, towels and toilet paper. It may not be practicable for conveniences in outlying parts of the town to be so well equipped, but at least they should be clean, weatherproof, in good repair and so maintained as to secure privacy for the users.

## DRAINAGE

The inspection and testing of new drainage work and alterations to existing drainage was continued throughout the year. The number of visits made for this purpose was less than in 1961, mainly because the rate of private house-building declined.

A soundly constructed drainage system is one of the most important parts of a building; not until the drains cease to function do we appreciate their contribution to the convenience of every-day life.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Borough's Cleansing services are under the control of the Borough Surveyor. About 10,600 dustbins are emptied weekly by three teams of collectors, the contents being disposed of by controlled tipping.

## VERMIN INFESTATIONS

Treatments are carried out in domestic and industrial buildings where infestations of vermin are found. Cockroaches and bed-bugs are found from time to time; they are dealt with by the use of modern insecticides.

## RODENT CONTROL

Poison baiting of rat-infested sewers has continued during the year, and many visits have been made to deal with surface infestations of rats and mice by trapping or poisoning. Further progress was made in getting untrapped street gullies modified to prevent rats coming to the surface, but many more require attention. Details of inspections in connection with Rodent Control are given in Table XI.

TABLE XI  
RODENT CONTROL

Action during the year

	Type of Property			
	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All Others	Total
Number of properties in the district	8939	5	1582	10,526
Number of properties inspected	755	Nil	105	860
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	1020	Nil	224	1244
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :				
Rats :	371	Nil	40	411
Mice :	28	Nil	24	52
Number of infested properties treated	399	Nil	64	463

#### PUBLIC BATHS

The improvements carried out at the Baths during the last few years were outlined in last year's Report. A new boiler has now been installed, additional changing accommodation has been provided, and new slipper baths and showers have been fitted.

Water for the 75ft. x 30ft. swimming pool is supplied from the town's mains and is subject to a process of continuous filtration and chlorination. Regular tests are made to ensure a satisfactory residual chlorine content and pH value.

During the year 75,921 people were admitted to the plunge and 9,043 slipper baths were taken.

#### NUISANCES

Complaints are received from time to time about accumulations of rubbish, the keeping of animals or birds, the burning of scrap material, and similar nuisances. Complaints of excessive noise are also encountered, particularly where dwellings are close to factories.

These matters are not always easy to deal with. Sometimes it is difficult to prove that public health is endangered, and there is often a long-standing history of disagreement between the parties concerned.

## FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 129 factories. Of these, 125 are provided with mechanical power. Although 100 visits were made during the year, more frequent inspection is needed if the enforcement of the Factory Act provisions is to be maintained.

More factory premises have been modernised, and improvements made to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and washing facilities. In this work, co-operation with H.M. Factory Inspectors and the Fire Service has continued.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Ministry of Labour, are to be found in the appendix at the end of this Report.

## MORTUARY

The public mortuary in Gas Street is in poor condition. It does not comply with modern requirements and has not been used during the year. If the present arrangements with the Bolton and District Hospital Management Committee could be made permanent, the mortuary building should either be demolished or adapted for some other purpose.

## PET SHOPS

These premises must be registered in accordance with the Pet Animals Act, 1951. Before registration, the premises are inspected and the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A. is sought where appropriate. During 1962, four pet shops were re-registered and one new registration was made.

## SHOPS ACT

During the year three visits were made for the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to temperature, ventilation and hours of opening.

## THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Borough itself has been free from any serious epidemic disease for many years and indeed the country as a whole is in better health than ever before. The Health Service in its broadest aspect must take the credit and the Public Health Service on the preventative side of medicine a great measure of it.

The cost of the National Health Service continues to rise and the only economy that can be practised and should be practised is not the raising of a patient's payment for a prescription but a substantial reduction in the cost of proprietary drugs. The money

spent on advertising matter for these drugs which fills the doctor's waste paper basket every morning must be fabulous. For all the ills that may assail mankind there are over 2,000 proprietary remedies. No doctor can remember one tenth of them and whichever shouts hardest and most persistently through the morning's mail bombardment gets into common use.

There is today an iniquitous system whereby patent rights exist in this and other countries of Europe (Italy excepted) for the manufacture of certain antibiotics used in the treatment of disease. These patent rights are held by firms in which a good deal of American capital is involved. The price of these drugs in tablet form is somewhere about 10 to 12 shillings per 100. There can be nothing in the cost of manufacture to warrant these high prices.

Penicillin was discovered in this country. Manufacture was difficult for us at the time and what we had learnt was made available to America who with its vast resources discovered a quicker and better method of making penicillin. In the course of years British firms were able to produce penicillin on a large scale, with the result that the former cost of penicillin calculated in shillings could now be calculated in coppers. The subsequent patent rights of manufacture safeguarded the price of future antibiotics.

In the drug manufacturing world, benefitting mankind is very much second place in the bitter fight for profits. Is it not possible to legislate against this?

People today, foolish as it may be, have become drug conscious. A night's restlessness in bed and a sleeping pill is required, and the slightest pain seems to merit some analgesic. Drugs as distinct from the old fashioned and often efficacious remedies of grandmother's day should be reserved for the seriously ill. Some, like Chloramphenicol, should never be taken at all. The human body, a very delicately balanced machine, can often work out its own cure, but some drugs can cause conditions of anaemia of considerable menace to life.

#### STAFF

Changes in technical and clerical staff resulted in the Department being under-manned for parts of the year.

Five years ago the Council accepted a recommendation to appoint a pupil Public Health Inspector. The wisdom of this policy became apparent during the year under review, when the pupil completed his training, passed the qualifying examination, and was able to take over a vacancy in the establishment of Public Health Inspectors which would otherwise have been difficult to fill.

Visits made by the Department's Public Health Inspectors during the year are summarised in Table XII.

**TABLE XII**  
**VISITS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING**  
**1962**

During 1962, 6,185 visits were made as follows for the purpose of administering the provisions of the various Acts and Orders.

PUBLIC HEALTH						No.
Repair of houses	...	...	...	...	...	828
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	122
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	225
Accumulations and tips	...	...	...	...	...	68
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drainage visits	...	...	...	...	...	390
Drain tests	...	...	...	...	...	159
Public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	52
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	11
Keeping of animals and birds	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	208
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	233
HOUSING						
Individual unfit houses	...	...	...	...	...	204
Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	139
Cleared sites or demolition in progress	...	...	...	...	...	75
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	12
Houses in multiple occupation	...	...	...	...	...	2
Improvement grants	...	...	...	...	...	111
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	4
Housing survey	...	...	...	...	...	167
FOOD AND DRUGS						
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	252
Meat shops	...	...	...	...	...	143
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	22
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	131
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	52
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	47
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	13
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	13
Restaurants, cafes and canteens	...	...	...	...	...	43
Market stalls	...	...	...	...	...	155
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	53
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	280
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspection of unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	89
Food vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	95

## FACTORIES

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Officers and workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

## CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	51
Industrial air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	289
Domestic air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	118
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	302
Measurement of air pollution	...	...	...	...	...	97

## MISCELLANEOUS

Public Baths	...	...	...	...	...	65
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	356
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	9
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
Places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	19
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	274

As in former years, I am indebted for the help and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the members of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## APPENDIX

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

#### PART I OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	125	100	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	6	9	1	Nil
Total...	135	109	4	Nil

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) ...					
(a) Insufficient.....	2	2	Nil	2	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	3	3	Nil	3	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	5	5	Nil	5	Nil

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork

#### (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133				Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	instances of unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Making of wearing apparel		2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cutting and packaging of paper		1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil









